A Possible Natural Hybrid *Nudaurelia zambesina* Wlk. x *N. said* Ob.

By D. G. SEVASTOPULO*

It would seem probable that I have recently bred a small brood of a natural hybrid *Nudaurelia zambesina* Wlk. x *N. said* Ob.

Towards the end of March 1976, what appeared to be a very weathered female *N. zambesina* was found resting beside a small batch of eggs on the wall against which my m.v. lamp is placed. The moth was similar in general appearance to *zambesina,* but the normal green-silver ground colour had been degraded to brownish and the moth lacked the normal dark crimson basal markings on the forewing below and the hindwing above.

When the eggs hatched a little later, it became obvious that the moth was not *zambesina,* as the newly hatched larvae had a brownish yellow body with small black vurrucae marking the positions of the spines of later instars, whilst the newly hatched larva of *zambesina* has the ground colour black. The larvae were given a choice of foodplants and selected *Heeria mucronata* Bernh. (Anacardiaceae).

Reference to Seitz suggested that the moth was, in fact, *Nudaurelia said* Ob. This is obviously a rare species as I have never met it before in some 20 years of working an m.v. lamp on the Kenya Coast, and Dr. Pinhey, then at the Coryndon, now the National Museum, wrote in his paper "The Emperor Moths of Eastern Africa" (1956, *J.E. Afr. N.H. Soc.*) that he had never seen it. Dr. R. H. Carcasson, who visited me at the end of May, agreed with the identification and added that he too had never seen the species before, although he was well acquainted with *zambesina.*

Subsequent larval instars resembled *zambesina,* but the larvae had six instars instead of the usual Saturniid five. Casualties were fairly heavy, and I was finally left with four pupae, one larva having been blown.

The resulting moths, all rather small—three males and one female—bore a greater resemblance to *zambesina* than to their female parent, the ground colour of the wings being the green-silver of *zambesina,* but in all four the basal dark crimson markings of the forewing below and the hindwing above were far les extensive than in pure *zambesina.* Unfortunately the female failed to attract a male, either of *said* or *zambesina,* so that a further generation could not be reared.

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NOLA ALBULA (D. & S.) IN EASTBOURNE. — On the night of 17th July, 1976, two examples of this local species were attracted to light on the coast. I know of no others for this neighbourhood since Adkin (1930, *Moths of Eastbourne,* 1: 28). — M. HADLEY, 7 Beverington Close, Eastbourne, Sussex, BN21 2SB.